

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00493 260808Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /098 W

-----260817 058929 /14

P R 260746Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8953

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

US MISSION NEW YORK 0467

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0493

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB

SUBJ: UN FACT FINDING MISSION AND OAU COMMISSION OF
INQUIRY

REF: COTONOU 393, 397

1. REFTELS INDICATE THAT UN FACT FINDING MISSION AND OAU
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AS WELL MAY MAKE REPORTS IMPLICATING
GABON AND MOROCCO IN JANUARY 16 MERCENARY ATTACK ON BENIN.
PRESIDENT BONGO, WHO HAS BEEN ON PRIVATE VISIT IN FRANCE
SINCE FEBRUARY 16, HAS PROBABLY BEEN INFORMED OF THIS
SITUATION BY FRENCH. NEVERTHELESS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO
DISCREETLY RAISE SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT DURING HIS UPCOMING
NY VISIT.

2. COMMENT: BONGO UNDOUBTEDLY CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00493 260808Z

OF UN AND OAU REPORTS TO EMBARRASS HIM WITH FELLOW
AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE AT TIME WHEN HIS MAJOR FOREIGN
POLICY GOAL IS ATTRACTING MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR
OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE. IN FACT, EMBASSY FINDS HARD
TO ACCEPT BONGO'S INVOLVEMENT WITH MERCENARY ATTACK
WHICH WOULD HAVE GAINED HIM LITTLE OR NOTHING IF SUCCESSFUL
AND AT SAME TIME PLACES HIS SUCCESS AS OAU PRESIDENT IN

JEOPARDY. WHILE WE HAVE NO MORE THAN BELIEF THAT BONGO'S
COMMON SENSE WOULD HAVE RULED OUT INVOLVEMENT IN JANUARY
16 INCIDENT, THOUGHT HAS OCCURRED THAT PEOPLES REPUBLIC
OF BENIN AND PERHAPS OTHERS ARE ATTEMPTING FRAME-UP OF
GABONESE AND MOROCCANS TO DISCREDIT THEM WITH OTHER
AFRICAN LEADERS AND DIMINISH THEIR INFLUENCE IN OAU.
IN ANY EVENT, BONGO WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY APPRECIATE KNOWING
WHATEVER POSSIBLE ABOUT CONTENT OF OAU AND UN REPORTS.DEJARNETTE

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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